

EL PASO POLICE DEPARTMENT



2004 ANNUAL REPORT
120 YEARS OF DEDICATED SERVICE

Mission Statement

"It is the mission of the El Paso Police Department to provide services with integrity and dedication, to preserve life, to enforce the law, and to work in partnership with the community to enhance the quality of life in the City of El Paso."

Our Vision

It is the vision of the El Paso Police Department to be...
A preferred employer of highly skilled professionals focused to provide customer-driven quality service, and to use advanced technology in accomplishing our mission.

Our Values

WE RESPECT LIFE . . .

We hold the preservation of life as our sacred duty. Our value of human life sets our priorities.

WE REVERE THE TRUTH . . .

We accept nothing less than truth, honesty, and integrity in our profession.

WE ENFORCE THE LAW . . .

We recognize that our basic responsibility is to enforce the law. Our role is to resolve problems through the law, not to judge or punish.

WE SEEK COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP . . .

We view the people of our community as partners who deserve our concern, care, and attention. We are committed to reducing the fear of crime in our community, and we endeavor to do this by creating partnerships in our neighborhoods.

WE HONOR OUR POLICE POWERS . . .

We understand that our police powers are derived from the people we serve. We do not tolerate the abuse of our police authority.

WE CONDUCT OURSELVES WITH DIGNITY . . .

We recognize that our personal conduct, both on and off duty, is inseparable from the professional reputation of both the officer and the department.

THE EL PASO POLICE DEPARTMENT IS "DEDICATED TO SERVE"

120 YEARS OF SERVICE

City of El Paso

Year of Incorporation	1873
Type of Government	City Manager, Mayor and 8 Member Council
City Budget	\$537,138,309
Population – City of El Paso	594,054*
Population – County	704,000*
Area covered by the EPPD	250.9 square miles
Miles of Roadway	1,851
* estimated	

El Paso Police Department

Authorized/Actual Officers	1349/1113
Authorized/Actual Civilians	365/300
Volunteers	368
Total Calls for Service	670,904
Budget	\$100,262,342

Government

Mayor: Joe Wardy

Council Districts:

- | | | |
|---------------------------|--------------------|------------------|
| 1. Susan Austin | 4. John Cook | 7. Vivian Rojas |
| 2. Robert A. Cushing, Jr. | 5. Presi Ortega | 8. Anthony Cobos |
| 3. Jose Alexandro Lozano | 6. Paul J. Escobar | |



Chief's Message

I am happy to announce that the El Paso Police Department, in close concert and cooperation with the community, achieved a 5.3 percent drop in crime in 2004. Additionally, the Morgan Quitno Press ranked the City of El Paso as the 2nd safest large city in the nation for the second year in a row. These achievements were made through the dedicated efforts of our officers and civilian staff and with the support of our partners within the El Paso community. It is clear that El Paso is a safe place to live and it is our firm commitment to you, the citizens of El Paso, that we will continue to make our businesses and neighborhoods safer to work and play.

I wish to express my appreciation for the support and confidence shown to me by the Mayor, City Manager, and City Council with my recent appointment to Chief of Police. I will continue to creatively, competently, and judiciously lead this department while maintaining the downward trend of crime that El Paso has grown to expect.

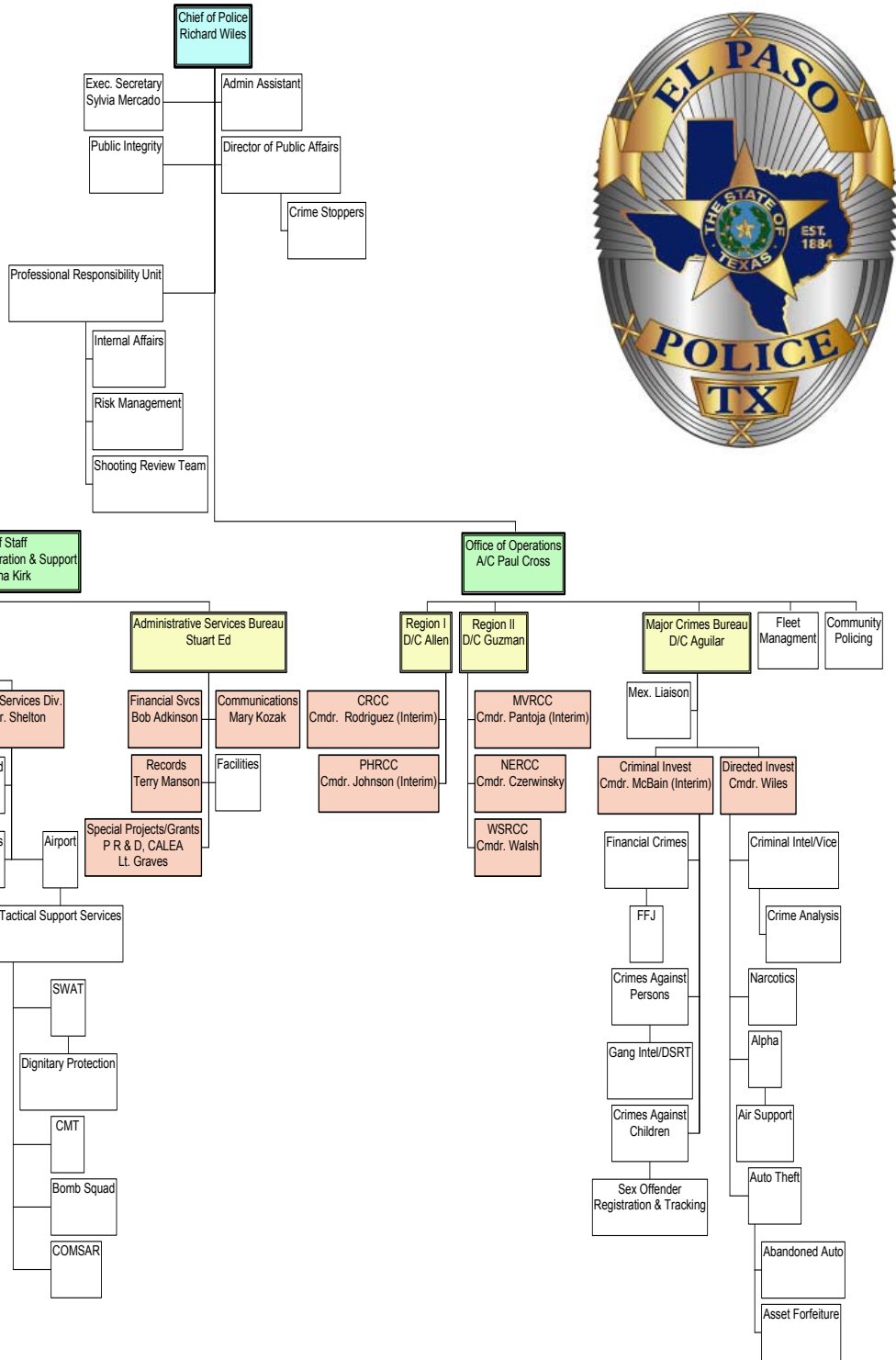
In 2004 I assembled a capable, talented, and historically diverse management team for the department. I appointed the first female Assistant Chief, Chief of Staff Diana Kirk, to oversee the Office of Administrative Support. I also appointed Assistant Chief Paul Cross, our first African-American Assistant Chief, who is charged with overseeing the Office of Operations.

We can't do it alone, and we can't do it without the support of this fine community. To the citizens of El Paso, I thank you for the commitment and trust you've invested in us with the \$7.2 million in capital funding resulting from the successful 2004 Bond Issue. Your investment has, in addition to other critical operational necessities, added computers at every officer workstation. This technological upgrade is a crucial first-step forward in allowing us to take advantage of law enforcement information technology advancements. Automatic fingerprinting, up-front identification, and state-of-the-art reporting are all advancements that will prove invaluable in our efforts to continue reducing crime and better serving you.

Regretfully, for the first time in 13 years, the City of El Paso and the Police Department mourned the loss of one of our own killed in the line of duty. Officer Andrew Barcena was shot during a domestic disturbance call at a private residence and he, regrettably, succumbed to his wounds a short time after the confrontation. Officer Barcena willingly gave his life to preserve the life of another who had fallen victim to domestic abuse.

Domestic violence calls remain one of the most dangerous tasks facing an officer. Our investigation revealed that Officer Barcena acted properly and well within the guidelines of his training. The department will work diligently to target domestic violence offenses. To that end, we recently created a task force that is charged with executing a backlog of outstanding family violence warrants. Additionally, we will begin posting photographs of individuals arrested for family violence on our website. Family violence tears at the very fabric of our community and I pledge to the community that the department will do everything within our means to prevent and combat this scourge.

Finally, the El Paso Police Department celebrated our 120th anniversary of service to our fine City. From a dusty old-west town to a thriving international hub, our department has always protected and served the citizens of El Paso. We are commemorating our anniversary with a new badge that represents an image of both professionalism and dedication to service that we commit ourselves to each and every day. On behalf of the entire department, I thank you for entrusting us with the honor and privilege of serving you each and every day.



Command Staff



Assistant Chief
Chief of Staff
Diana Kirk



Chief of Police
Richard Wiles



Assistant Chief
Chief of Operations
Paul Cross



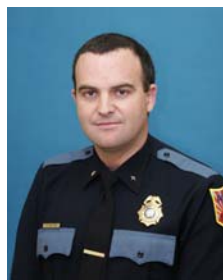
Deputy Chief
Region I
Gregory Allen



Deputy Chief
Region II
Richard Guzman



Deputy Chief
Major Crimes
Sylvia Aguilar



Deputy Chief
Support Services
Tom Whitten



Director
Admin. Services
Stuart Ed



Commander
Cliff Walsh
WSRCC



Acting Commander
Richard Pantoja
MVRCC



Commander
Michael Czerwinski
NERCC



Acting Commander
Raymundo Rodriguez
CRCC



Acting Commander
Jerome Johnson
PHRCC



Commander
Eric Shelton
Special Services



Acting Commander
George McBain
Criminal Invest.



Commander
Kenith Adcox
Auxiliary Support Div.



Commander
Robert Wiles
Directed Investigations



Manager
Terry Manson
Records



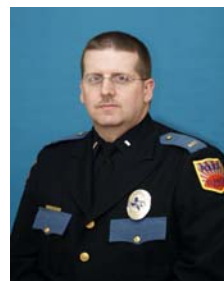
Manager
Ken Mobley
Training



Manager
Mary Kozak
Communications



Manager
Robert Adkinson
Financial Services



Lieutenant
Scott Graves
Planning Manager

Police Facilities



Communications Tower



Northeast Regional Command Center

Police Headquarters



Westside Regional Command Center



Pebble Hills Regional Command Center



Central Regional Command Center



Mission Valley Regional Command Center

Northeast Regional Command Center



The Northeast Regional Command Center serves a diverse community of approximately 127,000 residents. There are 139 officers and detectives and a Civilian staff of eight employees.

Understanding the importance of providing field officers the latest information on crime, crime trends, and criminal activity in general, the NERCC piloted an "E-Roll Call System." The roll call room was set up with network access, a computer, and projector. All

internal crime reports, maps and charts provided by Crime Analysis, flyers on wanted subjects, crime trend reports, and all other pertinent data is now available in the roll call meeting room. The officers are able to see crime maps with all the information plotted, which allows a better focus on criminal activity in the region and within an officer's specific district. The program is slated to expand to all regions in 2005.

In an effort to continuously foster the partnership with our community and citizens in accordance with the philosophy of community policing, the NERCC has established a system for the public to access crime statistics and crime tables on a weekly basis. The NERCC Crime Analysis Unit produces weekly crime trend tables and maps for the NERCC. A simple modification is made to the addresses by listing block numbers only to protect a victim's privacy. The information is then posted on the NERCC webpage where the public can access fresh information 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, at the click of a mouse. This provides civic groups an excellent tool to track crime. Additionally, the information is now being sent to the Block Captains of neighborhood watch groups. This program ensures that the public can monitor current information regarding crime in their respective neighborhoods.

Pebble Hills Regional Command Center

The Pebble Hills Regional Command serves a 54 square-mile area and has a population estimated at 150,000 residents. This region is projected to have the fastest growth in the City of El Paso over the next ten years.

The officers and staff of the Pebble Hills Regional Command take a leadership role in the implementation of community policing initiatives. The PHRC staff recognized that teens and young adult members of various car clubs invest thousands of dollars in their vehicles and need a productive forum to display their cars. In order to curtail incidents of drag racing and related traffic problems and criminal offenses, the PHRC was successful in uniting car clubs and mentored the development of the Car Club Association. This group, sanctioned by the El Paso Police Department, has proven to be a successful organization that has reduced criminal incidents related to "cruising" by having organized events and implementing standards.



Westside Regional Command Center (WSRCC)



The Westside region presently has nearly 100,000 permanent residents. The Westside area, however, is experiencing a steady growth in population and the City demographic projections predict a boom in the area near the new Resler extension to the city limits near the town of Vinton, Texas. The Public Service Board will be selling 2000 acres in this area for residential and commercial development. The sale is projected to add up to 50,000 residents in the next few years. With the growth will come an increased demand for police services and expansion of community programs, which the WSRCC stands ready to provide.

The WSRCC's Special Operations unit held it's first bicycle and skate board safety event in October 2004. Officers instructed children ranging in age from 6 to 16 on the importance of helmet and proper safety equipment use while riding a bicycle or using a skateboard. Participants also learned the laws that pertain to the use of this equipment. Two hundred participants took part in the event and a second safety event has been scheduled for the summer of 2005. The Command's intent is to increase the use of safety equipment and reduce injuries associated with the absence of safety measures.

WSRCC has a hero in its midst. Officer Jaime Esparza witnessed a fatal collision in the early morning hours of August 9, 2004 on Interstate 10 involving a recreational vehicle and a compact car that was traveling at a high rate of speed in the wrong direction. Officer Esparza and an unidentified motorist were seen rendering aid and rescuing nine people from the wrecked RV by a local television reporter. Unfortunately, the 19-year-old operator of the compact car died as a result of the collision. Officer Esparza received the highest awards available from both the Police and Fire Department - the Medal of Honor (Police) and the Medal of Valor (Fire) - for his heroic actions. Additionally, Officer Esparza was named "Chevy Trucks' Lone Star Hero of the Week."

Mission Valley Regional Command (MVRCC)

With one of the highest growth rates in the City of El Paso, the area policed by the Mission Valley Regional Command Center has approximately 135,000 citizens. Area growth projects that number to be 145,037 by the end of 2005.

The MVRCC hosted the 12th Annual Race against Drugs, renamed this year to honor Officer Candy Martinez who recently passed away after a long battle with cancer. Officer Martinez was always very active in the "Candy Martinez Memorial Race" (Race Against Drugs) and spent the majority of her career focusing her efforts on helping youths of all ages. The event attracts hundreds of runners and walkers annually.

The MVRCC spearheaded the "Pay Before you Pump" initiative in a concerted effort to reduce the number of drive-off gas thefts, which had become a serious problem. Business vendors met with the Department with the goal of voluntarily implementing pay-before-you-pump policies on cash customers. As a result, overall gas thefts dropped by 49% citywide and we anticipate greater declines of this type of theft during 2005.

The annual Stop Underage Drinking Summit (SUDS) was held at the El Paso Community College. The Summit is aimed at curbing underage drinking by targeting teenagers making them aware of the consequences of alcohol abuse.



Central Regional Command Center (CRCC)



The CRCC is housed in a building that was built in the early 1900's and once served as one of El Paso's first fire stations. Today this building functions as a regional command center employing a force of over 190 officers and detectives. The community served by this command is a diverse mix of over 123,000 permanent residents. The command's strategic location near three international bridges presents many unique enforcement challenges. Every year, an estimated 12 million people cross the bridges by foot or car into the downtown area.

On holidays and other high-risk evenings, members of the CRCC Citizen's Advisory Board position themselves on the U.S. side of the International bridges and explain the dangers of underage drinking to groups of youths crossing into Mexico. The volunteers encourage the groups to designate a sober driver and give the designated driver a wristband. The nightclubs of the Juarez Business Association, in turn provide free non-alcoholic soft drinks to the underage designated drivers.

The CRCC Bike Patrol team was increased 10% to 20 officers during 2004. Public parking and vehicle congestion are always a concern for citizens who must work or visit the downtown area. Enforcement of metered areas is one of the special responsibilities for CRCC. Additionally, the CRCC region is home to numerous special events including the Sun Carnival Parade, the Christmas Light parade, and Music Under the Stars.



Police Headquarters



The El Paso Police Headquarters building houses many different divisions and sections of the Police Department including the Chief of Police, his Executive Staff, Directed Investigations Division (including the Intelligence, Crime Analysis, Narcotics, Auto Theft, and Alpha), and the Criminal Investigation Division (including the Financial Crimes unit, Crimes against Persons unit, Crimes against Children unit, Gang unit, Sex Offender unit, and the Fugitives from Justice unit).

The Cyber Crime unit, organized under the Criminal Investigation Division, received the "Leadership in Technology Award" by the International Association of Chiefs of Police for the team's effective response to computer crimes. The Cyber Crimes unit is responsible for conducting computer forensics - the examination and analysis of computers used in criminal acts - including child pornography, drug dealing, homicide, and financial crimes. The HQ building is also home to the Crime Scene Investigation unit and the recently formed Cold Case unit.

El Paso Police Department Awards

Police Cross – The Police Cross is awarded posthumously to the immediate family of any member of the Department whose life is lost in the performance of duty under honorable conditions. In 2004, the Police Cross was awarded to the family of Officer Andrew Barcena. Officer Barcena was slain while intervening in a domestic disturbance in which the suspect was attempting to kill his wife.

Medal of Honor – The Medal of Honor is the highest award presented to any Officer of the Department. The Medal of Honor may be awarded to any Officer of the Department who is conspicuously distinguished through gallantry and heroism at the risk of the Officers' own life. The deed must have been a voluntary act of personal bravery or self-sacrifice so conspicuous as to distinguish the individual for gallantry and heroism above that of his or her peers. The act must have also involved risk of the Officer's life or great risk to personal safety, known to the Officer before performing the act, in an effort to save a human life. This year Officer Jaime Esparza earned the award for entering a burning recreational vehicle on Interstate 10 and saving its occupants. This is the first time the Department has awarded the Medal of Honor in recent memory.

Medal of Valor – The Medal of Valor is awarded to any Officer of the Department for acts of exceptional bravery performed at a risk to personal safety of life in an effort to protect property or save a human life. The act must clearly delineate valor from lesser forms of courage. This year the Medal of Valor goes to Officers Armando Gurrola and Robert Gomez

Purple Heart – The Purple Heart medallion will be awarded to any member of the Department who has been critically injured in the direct performance of police duty under honorable conditions. The award will be limited to those cases resulting from attack by an assailant, personal combat, or the performance of an act of valor or honor. The wound must have required treatment by a physician. This year the Purple Heart is awarded to Officers Andrea Abascal and Daniel Flores.

Lifesaving Award – The Lifesaving Award is given to any Officer, civilian, or volunteer member of the Department who has rendered exceptional first aid that, because of the member's efforts, resulted in saving a human life. It may also be awarded in instances where a Department member has made a successful rescue attempt that, without the intervening action, the victim would have lost his or her life. This year the Lifesaving Award was issued to:

Ricky Jordan
Sergio Cordova
David Hernandez
George Pacheco

Martin Cordova
Mike Robles (Retired)
Armando Reyes, Jr.
Rogelio Ledesma, III

Jaime Flores
Victor Mijares
Cruz Hernandez, Jr.
Raul Meraz

Josie Velasco
James Bolt
Carlos Ponce
David Soto

Heriberto Limas

Michael Kaprosy

David Moreno

Alberto Machorro

Christopher Ontiveros

Christopher Cabrera

Employees of the Year – The Employees of the Year are selected from the monthly Employee of the Month selections and nominations submitted to the committee. The **2004 Civilian** of the Year is Ms. Patricia Knutson, Communications. The **2004 Officer** of the Year is Officer Ralph Galindo. The **2004 Detective** of the Year is Detective Thomas Lawrence. The **2004 Supervisor** of the Year is Sergeant Kyle Summers.

Unit of the Year – The Unit of the Year is selected by the executive command staff. This award is conferred upon the support unit which has most successfully contributed to the accomplishment of the El Paso Police Department's Mission. The Unit of the Year was presented to the ALPHA Unit for exemplary performance during 2004 by seizing 36,168 pounds of marijuana, 930.10 pounds of cocaine, 17.5 pounds of heroin, 795 Ecstasy pills, 8.8 pounds of methamphetamines, and \$2,008,622.00 in currency, which includes the Police Department's 12% equitable sharing of a \$2,895,625.00 seizure and 272 arrests.

Executive of the Year – Assistant Chief Diana Kirk was recognized as the Police Executive of the year based on her extraordinary contributions to the Department including the oversight of an extensive and detailed Needs Assessment, the Department Budget, initiation of accreditation from the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, the restructuring of the Department's Grants section, and unusually high levels of managerial and leadership abilities.

Community Service Award – The Community Service Award is presented to members of the Department and citizens of this community who, through their efforts, display an unusually effective manner of employing the Community Policing Philosophy. The Community Service Award was presented to Sgt. P. Pelletier, PHRCC.

Unit Commendation – The Unit Commendation is presented to an entire section, committee, detail, shift or task force which excels in performance beyond that required by Department policy and procedures and when such performance is the direct result of a coordinated and cumulative effort of all assigned members performing as a team. Unit Commendations for 2004 were awarded to the following units:

Pawnshop Detail	DWI Task Force	CRC Crime Analysis	WSRCC Tact.
MVRCC CID	Records Div.	Communications	PHRCC Tact.
NERCC Tact.			

Division Commendation – The Division Commendation is awarded to any Department employee for the noteworthy performance of regular duties. During 2004 the following were issued this award:

Eric Aranda	Gabriel Peralta	Victor Vasquez	Yvette Guerrero	Victor Flores, Jr.
Lance Lanahan	Nicolas Varela	Jose L. Ratliff	Lorenzo Hernandez	Benjamin Mitchell
Alejandro Anaya	William Hooks			

Employee of the Month – The Employee of the Month is selected by the Awards committee based on nominations for approved medals or awards. Employees of the Month included:

Eva Enriquez	Josie Velasco	Patricia Knutson	Alonso Ortega	Tanisha Ende
Margarita Garcia Bocanegra	Elsa Hinojos	Juana Moncivaiz	Rene Zavala	Yolanda
Sandra Fraire	Arturo Nieto	Maria Robles	Nora Saucedo	Mmaria Villasana
Jessica Valles	Donald Cottrill	Cheryl Wolf	Ida Silva	Marcela Macias
Argelia Reta	David Peterson	Aalonso Ortega	Luis Avalos	Michele Acosta
Beatrice Ballou	Diana Quinonez	Valerie Contreras	Sandra Nieto	Sylvia Amador
Daniel Quintanar	Dalmira Molina	Rosa Lowry	Nichole Nanez	Martin Cordova
Susan Grass	Armando Gurrola	Robert Gomez	Eric Garcia	Alfred J. Perez
Javier Alonzo	Fernando Juarez	Peter Olivares	Alberto Lozano	Richard
Gonzalez				
Jared Lamb	William Stokes	Salvador Sanchez	Henry Slack	Sergio Cordova
Ralph Galindo	Cruz Hernandez, Jr.	Javier Martinez	Alfredo J. Perez	

Employee Commendation – The Employee Commendation is presented to any Department employee for services that have contributed to an overwhelming degree of success for a difficult project, operation, or response to an out of the ordinary or challenging event, over any period of time.

Chief's Award – The Chief's Award is presented to an individual, outside agency, school or college, civic group or club, in recognition of extraordinary contribution to local law enforcement, public safety, and/or welfare of the local community. The award is the Department's formal recognition of those who strive to make our community a better and safer place to live. Many awards were presented to deserving individuals.

Military Service Award – the Military Service Award is awarded to Military reservists who, while already employed as El Paso Police Officers, were activated for a period exceeding 60 days during one or more of our country's military conflicts (i.e. Desert Storm, Operation Enduring Freedom, etc.) The Military Service Award was awarded to

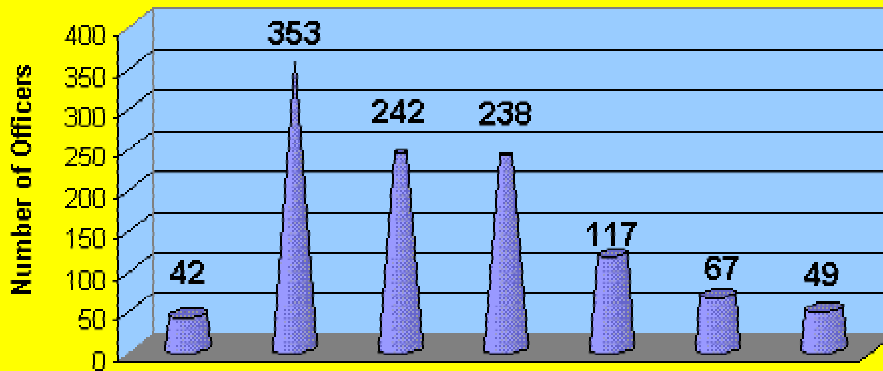
Daniel P. Gomez	Bryan Olsen	Alberto Chavez	Robert Zavala, Jr.	Rogelio Flores
Raul Perez	Gilbert Cordova	Kenith Adcox	Jerome Hinojos	Luis Acosta
Raul Medrano				

Officer Statistics

YEARS OF SERVICE

RANK	0	1-5	6-10	11-15	16-20	21-25	>25	Total
Chief						1		1
Asst Chief				1		1		2
Deputy Chief				1	1	1	1	4
Captain					2		3	5
Lieutenant			1	5	16	9	7	38
Sergeant		1	22	48	23	18	9	121
Detective		9	52	59	35	11	9	175
Officer	42	343	167	124	40	26	20	762
Grand Total	42	353	242	238	117	67	49	1108
% of Total	4%	32%	22%	21%	11%	6%	4%	

Years of Service



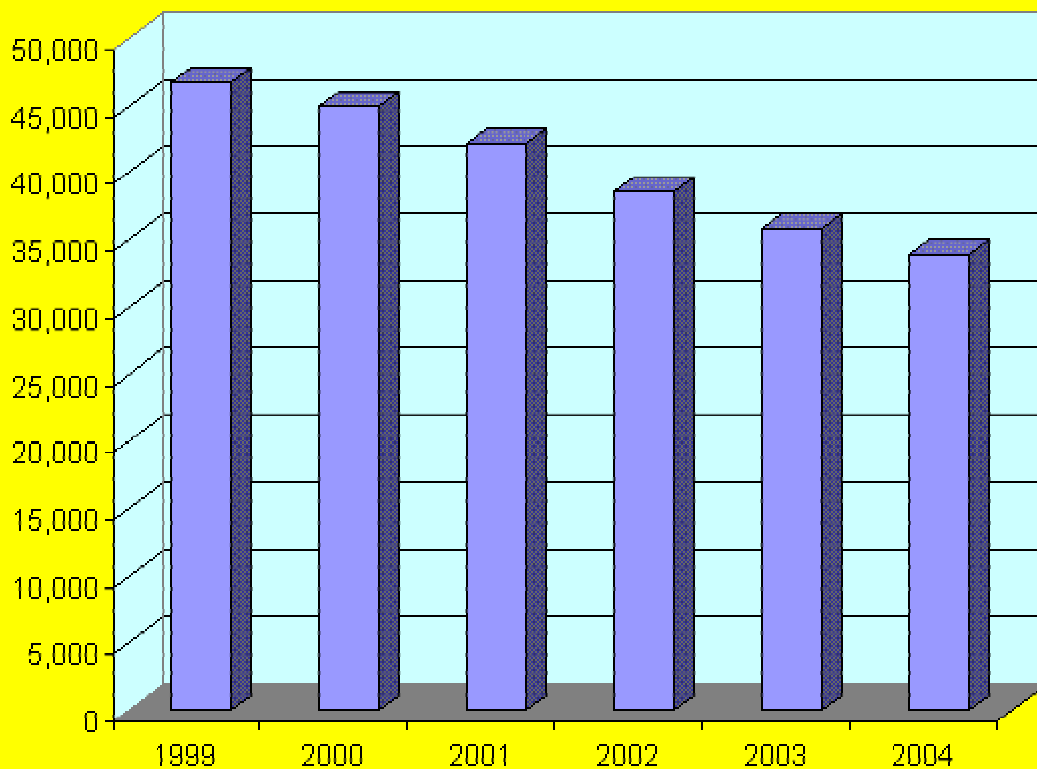
■ 0 1-5 6-10 11-15 16-20 21-25 >25

ETHNIC BREAKDOWN										
ETHNICITY	CHIEF	AC	DC	CAPT	LT	SGT	DET	OFCR	Grand Total	% of Total
Amer Indian	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	6	0.5%
Black	0	1	1	0	1	4	5	10	22	2.0%
Hispanic	0	1	2	0	18	83	123	607	834	75.7%
Pacific Islander	0	0	0	1	1	1	2	7	12	1.1%
White	1	0	1	4	16	33	44	129	228	20.7%
Grand Total	1	2	4	5	36	121	174	759	1102	100.0%

Crime Comparison

	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Murder	16	20	21	17	22	11
Sexual Assault	185	188	203	221	219	201
Assaults (All)	13,947	13,750	14,760	14,666	13,222	12,308
Robbery	715	731	775	575	581	570
Burglary	2,496	2,228	2,553	2,221	2,185	2,304
Theft	27,052	25,605	22,039	18,887	17,735	16,702
Motor Vehicle Theft	2,307	2,442	1,836	1,998	1,860	1,840
	46,718	44,964	42,187	38,585	35,824	33,936
% Incease(Decrease) Year/year		(3.8)	(6.2)	(8.5)	(7.2)	(5.3)

Overall Crime Levels



In Memoriam



On Saturday, September 25, 2004, Police Officer Angel Andrew Barcena was shot and killed after responding to a domestic violence call.

The incident involved an intoxicated suspect attempting to forcibly enter his estranged wife's home. Officer Barcena and his partner arrived at the scene when the suspect ceased his attack on his wife and began firing his handgun at the officers. Officer Barcena was struck once in the upper leg and was taken to William Beaumont Medical Center where he died of his wounds. The suspect was later apprehended and charged with capital murder.

Officer Barcena graduated from the Peace Officer Academy on August 26, 2004, and was assigned to the Westside Regional Command Center. Officer Barcena became the 23rd El Paso Police Department officer killed while in the line of duty. Officer Barcena left behind a loving wife, Kumi Barcena, father, Ricardo Barcena Sr., siblings, as well as his extended family. The last officer with the Department killed while on duty was Officer Ernesto Serna in 1991.

Police Memorial





Safety Fair

The Second Annual 2004 Community Safety Fair was held on May 22, 2004 at McKelligon Canyon. Over 50 agencies participated in the event and over 5,000 citizens and families attended. Demonstrations were provided by the Canine, SWAT, Bike and COMSAR teams. Attendees also inspected the latest in police car technology while gathering information on crime prevention, child abuse awareness, water and traffic safety, and other quality of life issues.

Disabled Parking Enforcement Volunteer Team doubles!

The El Paso Police Department's Disabled Parking Enforcement Team has doubled in size. The Team, made up of volunteers who receive 16 hours of training, is sent to areas where complaints on disabled parking are consistently reported. The program was created in 2000 at the Northeast Regional Command as a pilot program after concerned citizens approached the Police Department and voiced their interest in partnering with the department to address disabled parking violations. In 2004 the Department trained an additional 9 volunteers for a total of 18 Disabled Parking Enforcement Volunteers. All Regional Commands now have volunteers ready and able to address disabled parking violations citywide.



9/11 Hero Celebration

"Turning a devastating national experience into a positive Hero remembrance"

On September 11th, 2004 several hundred El Pasoans joined City Representative John Cook, United Blood Services, the US Army, US Border Patrol, US Customs and Border Protection, the El Paso Police Department, the El Paso Sheriff's Office, and El Paso Firefighters in honoring our heroes.



Activities began with patriotic music from the Ft. Bliss 62nd Army Band. A half-hour ceremony followed dignitary comments from each participating agency. Parents and children enjoyed Hero Musical Entertainment, Hero Hot Dogs, Hero Health Fair, and Interactive Hero Static Displays both outside and inside the El Paso Specialty Hospital. United Blood Services also conducted a blood drive during the event.

New Magnet School For Criminal Justice/Public Service Announced



The El Paso Independent School District announced that Austin High School is the District's newest Magnet school. Beginning in August 2005, the District will initiate the community's first Criminal Justice Public Service Academy at Austin High School. Representatives from the El Paso Police Department, El Paso Fire Department, El Paso County Sheriff's Department, Fort Bliss, US Border Patrol, and FBI will play a key role in successfully preparing students for careers in Law Enforcement and Public Safety. Students will be able to choose between a variety of curricula, including Criminal Justice, Fire Technology, and Emergency Medical Technology.

El Paso Police Recognized for Community's Seatbelt Compliance

The Texas Department of Transportation and the Texas Municipal Police Association awarded the "Buckle Up Texas Award" to the El Paso Police Department for having the highest seatbelt compliance rate in Texas. The award was presented at an awards ceremony during the 2004 Texas Save a Life Summit held September 13-14, 2004. El Paso recorded an astounding seatbelt compliance rate of 92.4% in 2004. The El Paso Police Department was also recognized for a staggering 61% increase in pickup truck seatbelt usage compliance within the community. The increase was recorded by surveys conducted before and after the Click It or Ticket Campaign Enforcement.



Explorer Post #2002 Placed 3RD at National Competition Competition



The Mission Valley Regional Command's Explorer Post #2002 traveled to Atlanta, Georgia to compete in the 2004 National Law Enforcement Exploring Conference. Over four thousand Explorers from all over the United States and surrounding countries competed during the week of July 19-23, 2004. Twelve competitive team events and numerous individual events were scheduled for the Explorers to compete. The Mission Valley Regional Command Explorer Post #2002 placed third in the Crime Prevention Competition out of a field of 500 teams. The competition consisted of two parts: a twenty-five multiple-choice question test and an exercise preparing and delivering a presentation to judges. The Explorer post consists of local youth that have a high level of interest in law enforcement.

Women's Conference

The Department sponsored the Second Annual Empowering Women in Law Enforcement Conference held June 7-9, 2004. The Conference was attended by over 300 women from various national, regional, and local law enforcement agencies and featured several keynote and motivational speakers. The El Paso Police Department proudly boasts 111 female officers and actively recruits women to join the force. Assistant Chief Diana Kirk, the first woman ever to hold an Assistant Chief and Chief of Staff position at the Department, and Deputy



Chief Sylvia Aguilar are the two ranking female officers in the department. They have paved the way for other women to follow in their footsteps of leadership. Women answering the call to become one of "El Paso's finest" are rewarded with an exciting career, a wide variety of job assignments, and opportunities for advancement. The "Empowering Women in Law Enforcement Conference" celebrates women's achievements in law enforcement and strengthens the training and networking availabilities for women.

Bomb Squad Receives Accreditation

The outstanding level of training, readiness, and performance achieved by the El Paso Police Department Bomb Squad was formally recognized by the FBI when Ralph Diaz, the FBI Special Agent in Charge of the El Paso Field Office, presented the Squad its Federal Accreditation on May 27, 2004. Municipal and county bomb squads nationwide covet this accreditation. Accreditation is attained through several stringent criteria, including the unit's number of training hours per member, number of handled calls, and the level of interaction with other agencies including the Department of Homeland Security. The FBI evaluates police departments every five years for accreditation.

TGIA Officer of the Year Award

Officer Gabriel Peralta, a longtime member of the Central Regional Command's Tactical Unit, was awarded the Texas Gang Investigators Association (TGIA) **Peace Officer of the Year for 2004**. Only two officers in Texas were honored by this prestigious award in 2004.



Officers Serving in Military - Operation Iraqi Freedom

The Department steadfastly supports those among us who answer the call to serve and protect our country overseas. We are proud of our officers who braved the call to military service during Calendar Years 2003-2004.

Stephen Cataldi
Jose Witterstauter
Richard Albee, Jr.
Ruben A. Esparza
Oscar Mendez

Joseph Gutierrez
Steve Moreland
Thomas Belcher
Juan Gonzalez
Juan Moreno

Luis Acosta
Rodney I. Mooers
John Castro
Jose Martinez
Veronica Thompson

Juan Moreno
Bryan W. Olson
Berna Corralejo
Raul Medrano
Miguel Torres

Joint City-County Police Officer Academy



The El Paso Police Department achieved new heights in inter-agency cooperation and public service efficiency by participating in a joint City and County Peace Officer Academy running from March 15, 2004 to August 25, 2004. This combined academy, the first of its kind in Texas, graduated a total of 67 peace officers - 41 for Police, 23 for the El Paso County Sheriff's Department and 3 Fire Marshals for the El Paso Fire Department. The different

academies were combined in an effort to save taxpayers money by sharing instructors and facilities. The joint venture saved the City of El Paso an estimated \$8 million that would have been required to build a new training academy.

The cadets underwent six months of challenging physical and mental training at the Sheriff's Department training facility while also receiving specialized training unique to each participating law enforcement agency. The keynote speaker at the graduation ceremony of Class 04-01, held August 26, 2004, was Dr. Jim Dozier, Executive Director of the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement.



Under Age Drinking Initiative



Mexico's established drinking age of 18 years presents a unique challenge for both parents and El Paso Police Department staff alike. The Under Age Drinking Initiative dramatizes the real life impact of underage drinking through area school seminars where victims themselves tell the tragic stories of how drunk drivers changed their lives forever. Additionally, on selected high-risk evenings, the Central Regional Command Center staff and Citizens Advisory Board Members provide literature and free armbands for teenage designated drivers headed into Juarez. The armbands

entitle the responsible drivers to unlimited free soft drinks at Juarez nightspots. (Photo depicts a simulated crash in front of Coronado High School on El Paso's Westside)

State Communicator of the Year

Elena Olivera was recognized as a State Communicator of the year by the Texas Commission on State Emergency Communications for successfully helping a citizen overcome a destructive situation. Ms. Olivera received a 911 call from a citizen who was threatening suicide. Drawing on her extensive training and vast experience, Ms. Olivera was able to diffuse the situation and remained on the phone until help arrived at the citizen's home.



Ms. Olivera is a fine example of the competent, responsive, and caring services provided to both officers and citizens by the 911 Call Center - as well as the Department's dedicated Civilian workforce - each and every day.



Stash House Initiative

El Paso's proximity to the Mexican Border makes it susceptible to the establishment of "stash houses" in the city and the surrounding area. Drug trafficking organizations temporarily store large quantities of illegal drugs in these stash houses for the purposes of repackaging and facilitating methodical distribution to other cities throughout the United States.



In response to the stash house problem, the El Paso Police Department has joined forces with other law enforcement agencies through the **High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA)**. HIDTA is a critical component of the President's **National Drug Control Strategy** program. It enhances and coordinates drug control efforts among local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies. The program provides agencies a coordination structure, equipment, technology, and additional resources allowing each of the 28 HIDTA regions to work within a structure of partnership and collaboration that effectively combats regional drug threats.

The West Texas HIDTA region is comprised of local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies whose leaders work together to assess regional drug threats, design strategies to combat the threats, and implement strategies to ultimately reduce the flow of drugs.



One of the West Texas HIDTA strategies includes organizing collocated, multi-agency drug task forces and initiatives. Collocation of multi-jurisdictional task forces are fundamental program standards that promote achievement of strong levels of coordination and partnership building. These standards provide valuable opportunities for the participating agencies to combine their wide range of knowledge, skills, jurisdictional powers and resources to target illicit drug organizations and drug-related crime, as well as to share information and resources, develop lasting teamwork, and conduct cross training between organizations. The strategies are developed based upon the identified regional drug trafficking threat.



The West Texas HIDTA Stash House Initiative provides funding for salaries, overtime, travel, training and equipment for a multi-agency task force dedicated to combating the drug dealers engaged in this activity. Since its inception, the task force has seized over 78,880 pounds of marijuana, 5,166 pounds of cocaine and 1,345,180 in U.S. currency. The unit has also made over 291 arrests for narcotics-related offenses. In 2004, two separate cases alone removed over 1500 pounds of marijuana and almost 500 pounds of cocaine with a street value of over \$36,000,000.

Opting for the Police “shield” traditionally used by Police Departments around the country, the new badge is a welcomed change for officers and a significant security improvement for citizens. Each of the new badges is unique to the individual officer, emblazoned with the specific rank and identification number of the officer wearing the badge. Additionally, these badges have controlled access as they are manufactured by only one company and are only distributed to the El Paso Police Department through a local supplier.

In short, the new badges add to community safety while serving as a source of pride for the officers who have earned the honor to wear them.

2004 Awards

Medal of Valor



Robert Gomez

Medal of Honor



Jaime Esparza

Medal of Valor



Armando Gurrola

Officer of the Year



Ralph Galindo

Purple Heart



Daniel Flores, Andrea Abascal

Civilian of the Year



Patricia Knutson

Community Policing



Vince Macias

Executive of the Year



Diana Kirk & son

Spirit of Unity



**Chris McGill
Accepting on behalf
of the El Paso Police
Officers Association**



WWW.EPPD.ORG
911 N. RAYNOR
EL PASO, TX 79903
(915) 564-7000